IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Winter 2023 · Volume 93 · Number 1

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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On Being a Young Birder

Dean Hester

My introduction to bird watching came relatively early in life, on a long geology field course in southwestern Montana. Our days off consisted of trips to the local townie bar and thermal hot springs. One fateful day, a fellow student – Brandon Caswell – convinced me to forego the usual spots and instead join him for a morning of birding.

Exciting sightings soon followed: Peregrine Falcons dive-bombing prey, and Long-Billed Curlews dive-bombing us in defense of nearby but unseen nests. Some even bounced of our clipboards held aloft as makeshift shields! From that point on, birding rapidly snowballed into an obsession fueled by my previous love of photography and the natural world.

Birding circles are exceptionally friendly and welcoming as cliques go, but it didn't take long to realize that being anything south of 40 years old was a bit of a novelty. And during congregations for local rarities, I was more often than not the youngest person by a few decades. Birdwatching in general has long held the stereotype of being the domain of retirees and those with plenty of disposable income for expensive optics and travel. Many of my friends would playfully joke when I would mention birding or an upcoming trip, saying I was "showing my age." Even in good fun, this highlights some of the subconscious barriers for young people entering the hobby. Without a group of people my own age, getting into birding would have been a much more daunting experience, where carefully-honed ID skills, big scopes and cameras, and lots of technical jargon can seem awfully intimidating to a novice.

Over the course of my short 8-year birding career in SE Iowa, I have noticed a rapid uptick in young birders from many backgrounds. This shift is no doubt spurred by a recent surge in online birding forums, clubs, and citizen science initiatives (eBird, iNaturalist, Iowa Young Birders, and so on). Bird watching is frequently cited as the fastest-growing hobby in the US, due in no small part to an influx of younger birders. Although it is often tempting to stick to our own age cohorts, especially in our hobbies, reaching out and involving younger people interested in birds is a powerful way to keep our hobby alive and foster a love for the natural world, especially in this new generation as it faces an impending biodiversity crisis.

I had a great opportunity to put this into practice on a recent trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. One member of our group had spotted a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and, as the rest of our group rushed over, I noticed a group of local kids laughing at our feverish scramble. After searching for the owl, one of the kids pointed it out for us. We shared our binoculars and photos with a growing

crowd. By the time the owl moved on, we had three families and nearly a dozen children excited about the sighting. We saw many more Pygmy Owls, but this was certainly one of the the highlights of the trip.

I suppose being asked to write this article means I still have a little time left!

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Dickcissel, Bassett, Chickasaw, *1 June 2022. Photograph by Karl Fliris, New Hampton, IA.*

Why Do Our Checklists Change?

Christopher A. Brochu and Colin D. Sumrall

Each year, many of us eagerly await decisions made by the American Ornithological Society's North American Checklist Committee (NACC), which maintains the standard checklist used by the American Birding Association, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and most field guides to North American birds. It's also reflected in the Clements Checklist of Birds of the World, which in turn is used by digital resources such as eBird, Merlin, and iNaturalist.

Changes to the American Ornithological Society's North American checklist are based on proposals submitted to the NACC to either combine (lump) or divide (split) recognized species. The NACC is pretty conservative about making changes, so most proposals are rejected – but a few will be accepted, and the rest of us go back to our life lists, which may expand or shrink depending on what's changed.

We then travel abroad and discover checklists that don't quite match ours. The AOS, for example, regards all circumatlantic terns with black bills tipped in yellow as the Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis),* but checklists in the United Kingdom limit *T. sandvicensis* to Europe and treat North American populations as the Cabot's Tern (*T. acuflavidus*). UK lists also separate their Common Teal (*Anas crecca*) from our Green-Winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*), but the AOS treats both as subspecies of *A. crecca.*

What's going on?

Answering that requires a deep dive into the darkest and most frustrating of all biological rabbit holes – defining the word "species."

Most of us learned a definition of "species" in high school biology based on reproductive isolation. Members of a species produce fertile offspring, but members of different species cannot. The foal of a thoroughbred and a quarter horse is fertile, but that of a thoroughbred and a donkey is a sterile mule. This is known as the **biological species concept** (BSC).

The BSC played an especially outsized role in ornithology because the person who first expressed it – Ernst Mayr – was himself an ornithologist who based his idea on personal field observations. The appearance of the BSC in 1942 coincided with the rise of modern evolutionary biology, which was driven by the emerging field of genetics. Mayr saw that restrictions in gene flow could explain what Charles Darwin, who knew nothing of genetics, could not – how, exactly, new species arise. Block gene flow, and populations will evolve independently to the point that they can no longer interbreed.

But although ubiquitous in textbooks, the BSC doesn't necessarily work as a universal definition of "species." Not all organisms reproduce sexually, for example. And those of us working with fossils – which, being dead, typically can't interbreed – would be out of luck. Moreover, fertile hybrids between species occur more frequently in groups other than birds. Strict application of the BSC to true crocodiles (*Crocodylus*), for example, would drop the number

of recognized living species from twelve to one.

If species aren't necessarily reproductively isolated populations, what are they?

Wading through the scientific literature suggests a massive number of concepts, but beyond the BSC, there are basically two others – the **evolutionary species concept** (ESC) and the **phylogenetic species concept** (PSC). The ESC defines species as lineages of ancestor-descendent populations. The PSC defines them as smallest diagnosable units – organisms that share unique combinations of features not found in other species.

The ESC, PSC, and BSC are actually mutually compatible and describe different aspects of the species problem. The ESC tells us what a species is, the PSC tells us how we know we have a species, and the BSC tells us how species come into being for sexually-reproducing organisms. And these can, indeed, work in parallel - evidence for reproductive isolation between populations, for example, is a powerful indicator that they're different species.

In essence, phylogenetic "species" are *operational* species. They're what our checklists show. They're what we identify through our binoculars and hear when they sing. They approximate *real* species (lineages of ancestor-descendent populations) that may have arisen through reproductive isolation. And because we don't know everything, this approximation is imperfect.

Our ability to recognize species is always improving. Advances in molecular biology are enhancing our capacity to recognize fixed genetic differences between populations. They often coincide with previously recognized subspecies, or at least distinctive populations that differ in call, plumage, preferred habitat, and so on. Our checklists change when these smallest diagnosable units are interpreted as lineages of ancestor-descendent populations.

We are, hopefully, fine-tuning the degree to which operational species reflect actual species. And because this is an ongoing process conducted by people who lack omniscience, we'll never have a fixed, unchanging checklist.

This also explains regional differences between checklists. There's no universally-accepted threshold between species-level differences and within-species variation. Are there abrupt boundaries between distinct populations, or is the variation clinal? Is there a broad hybrid zone? How consistent are the morphological or vocal differences between populations? How much gene flow is happening between populations? These all play a role in deciding whether to lump or split. Add the different perspectives different ornithologists bring to the table, and the likelihood of absolute consensus grows even more elusive.

The formation of new species is messy. Gene flow between populations may stop abruptly, or it may dwindle over decades, centuries, or millennia. There may not be a perfectly objective point in time at which two populations within a species become two distinct species. We're getting better at making these distinctions, but there's just enough ambiguity in nature to keep us from ever compiling a decisive, universally-accepted checklist.

It's easy to dismiss these changes as cyclical trends between periods of lumping and splitting. A lot of lumping happened in the late 20th century, and splitting now seems all the rage. But these aren't fads. They reflect real changes in how biologists

perceive species. These should be viewed not as arbitrary swings of a taxonomic pendulum, but as advances in biology that improve our ability to organize biodiversity.

Will a time come when we re-lump what we now split? Perhaps – but if so, it wouldn't merely be a social whim among taxonomists, as arbitrary and artificial as whether hipster beards are "in." It would arise from our ever-evolving ability to objectively recognize species.

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Red-winged Blackbird, Y Ave, South of Granger, Dallas, *2 June 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA..*

Field Reports—Summer 2022

Paul Skrade

A full report will be published in a future issue.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	87
Snow Goose	30
Ross's Goose	2
Greater White-fronted Goose	9
Canada Goose	1227
Mute Swan	14
Trumpeter Swan	121
Wood Duck	665
Blue-winged Teal	124
Northern Shoveler	13
Gadwall	11
American Wigeon	4
Mallard	965
Northern Pintail	6
Green-winged Teal	12
Canvasback	3
Redhead	15
Ring-necked Duck	11
Lesser Scaup	8
Bufflehead	2
Hooded Merganser	126
Common Merganser	10
Red-breasted Merganser	2
Ruddy Duck	6
Northern Bobwhite	177
Wild Turkey	283
Ruffed Grouse	1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	2
Gray Partridge	20
Ring-necked Pheasant	774
Pied-billed Grebe	116
Red-necked Grebe	3
Eurasian Collared-Dove	419
Mourning Dove	3007
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	631
Black-billed Cuckoo	33
Common Nighthawk	225
Chuck-will's-widow	5
Eastern Whip-poor-will	20
Chimney Swift	661
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	814
Virginia Rail	13
Sora	15
Common Gallinule	41
American Coot	49
Limpkin	70

Sandhill Crane, Rural New Hampton, along the East Fork of the Wapsipinicon, Chickasaw, *20 June 2022. Photograph by Karl Fliris, New Hampton, IA.*

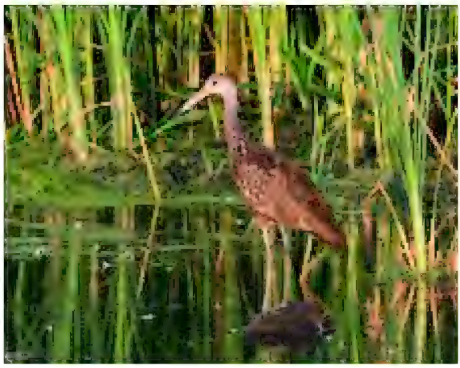
Sandhill Crane	186
Black-necked Stilt	6
American Avocet	16
Black-bellied Plover	6
American Golden-Plover	3
Killdeer	1819
Semipalmated Plover	31
Upland Sandpiper	89
Marbled Godwit	1
Ruddy Turnstone	3
Stilt Sandpiper	11
Sanderling	7
Dunlin	2

Baird's Sandpiper	4
Least Sandpiper	91
White-rumped Sandpiper	31
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	68
Semipalmated Sandpiper	76
Short-billed Dowitcher	8
American Woodcock	12
Wilson's Snipe	2
Spotted Sandpiper	293
Solitary Sandpiper	94
Lesser Yellowlegs	54
Willet	7
Greater Yellowlegs	23
Wilson's Phalarope	6
Red-necked Phalarope	2
Laughing Gull	1
Franklin's Gull	60
Ring-billed Gull	209
Herring Gull	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2
Least Tern	4
Caspian Tern	44
Black Tern	44
Common Tern	1
Forster's Tern	36
Common Loon	9
Double-crested Cormorant	307
Neotropic Cormorant	16
American White Pelican	461
American Bittern	9
Least Bittern	55
Great Blue Heron	1241
Great Egret	177
Snowy Egret	3
Little Blue Heron	14
Tricolored Heron	10
Cattle Egret	10
Green Heron	289
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	11
Turkey Vulture	2108
Osprey	132
Northern Harrier	9
Cooper's Hawk	148
Bald Eagle	485
Mississippi Kite	26
Red-shouldered Hawk	46
Broad-winged Hawk	50
Swainson's Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	608
Barn Owl	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	9
Great Horned Owl	64
Snowy Owl	1
Barred Owl	211
Belted Kingfisher	370
Red-headed Woodpecker	1335
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1657
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	60
Downy Woodpecker	1807
Hairy Woodpecker	564
Northern Flicker	832
Pileated Woodpecker	185
Pine Siskin	1
American Kestrel	194
Merlin	2
Peregrine Falcon	13
Great Crested Flycatcher	1186
Western Kingbird	70
Eastern Kingbird	1948
Olive-sided Flycatcher	9
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1539
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2
Acadian Flycatcher	132
Alder Flycatcher	15
Willow Flycatcher	406
Least Flycatcher	4
Eastern Phoebe	436
White-eyed Vireo	23
Bell's Vireo	300
Yellow-throated Vireo	540
Philadelphia Vireo	1
Warbling Vireo	1217
Red-eyed Vireo	688
Loggerhead Shrike	40
Blue Jay	2105
American Crow	1835
Fish Crow	2
Black-capped Chickadee	1783

Tufted Titmouse	405
Horned Lark	103
Bank Swallow	170
Tree Swallow	1129
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	392
Purple Martin	569
Barn Swallow	2117
Cliff Swallow	1089
Cedar Waxwing	1274
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1434
Brown Creeper	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	424
House Wren	3072
Sedge Wren	237
Marsh Wren	232
Carolina Wren	164
Bewick's Wren	8
Gray Catbird	2708
Brown Thrasher	618
Northern Mockingbird	38
European Starling	1765
Eastern Bluebird	617
Veery	16
Swainson's Thrush	1
Wood Thrush	354
American Robin	4253
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	430
American Goldfinch	2442
Grasshopper Sparrow	216
Lark Sparrow	192
Chipping Sparrow	1420
Clay-colored Sparrow	19
Field Sparrow	928
Vesper Sparrow	88
Henslow's Sparrow	132
Savannah Sparrow	39
Song Sparrow	1877
Swamp Sparrow	144
Eastern Towhee	602
Yellow-breasted Chat	109
Yellow-headed Blackbird	110
Bobolink	249
Eastern Meadowlark	905
Western Meadowlark	138
Orchard Oriole	780
Baltimore Oriole	1666

Red-winged Blackbird, Y Ave, South of Granger, Dallas, *2 June 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Red-winged Blackbird	4278
Brown-headed Cowbird	2099
Common Grackle	2010
Great-tailed Grackle	32
Ovenbird	77
Worm-eating Warbler	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	38
Blue-winged Warbler	36
Black-and-white Warbler	4
Prothonotary Warbler	132
Connecticut Warbler	2
Kentucky Warbler	34
Common Yellowthroat	2516
Hooded Warbler	4
American Redstart	1026
Cerulean Warbler	37
Northern Parula	95
Magnolia Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	958
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Blackpoll Warbler	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	56
Prairie Warbler	21
Wilson's Warbler	1
Summer Tanager	83
Scarlet Tanager	296
Northern Cardinal	3235



Limpkin, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista*, 17 July 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Mississippi Kite, Ottumwa, Wapello*, 6 June 2022. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Grimes Hwy 44 Pond, Polk*, 2 June 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Wood Duck, Hayes Pit, Buena Vista*, 30 July 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Xavier Ave / Brenton Slough, Dallas*, 3 June 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Common Gallinule, Brenton Slough, Dallas*, 6 June 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Sandhill Crane, Xavier Ave / Brenton Slough, Dallas, *1 June 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Killdeer, Saylorville WMA Dallas, Dallas, *12 July 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Upland Sandpiper, Madrid to Kelley, Boone, *12 July 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Least Bittern, Xavier Ave / Brenton Slough, Dallas, *1 June 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, *8 June 2022. Photograph by Paul Hertzel, Mason City, IA.*

Red-headed Woodpecker, Swede Point Park, Boone, *23 June 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

American Kestrel, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone*, 27 June 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Willow Flycatcher, Conesville Marsh, Louisa*, 27 June 2022. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Loggerhead Shrike, Indiangrass Hills IBA, Iowa*, 22 July 2022. Photograph by Connor Langan, Grundy Center, IA.*

Sedge Wren, Burrows Pond, Sac*, 31 July 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Brown Thrasher, Big Creek WMA, Polk*, 1 July 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*

American Goldfinch, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista*, 31 July 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Lyon county, Lyon, *22 July 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

Lark Sparrow, Saylorville Lake, Sandpiper RA, Polk, *28 July 2022. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.*

Eastern Towhee, Madrid, Dallas, *1 July 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Northern Parula, Ft Defiance, Emmet, *22 June 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

Northern Cardinal, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, *30 June 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*

Dickcissel, Holst State Forest, Boone, *8 June 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1144
Blue Grosbeak	202
Indigo Bunting	2359
Painted Bunting	1
Dickcissel	2372

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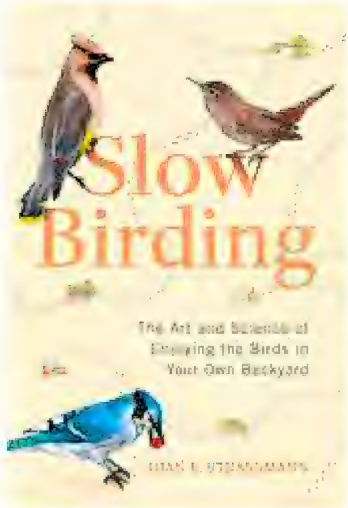
Bobolink, Bassett, Chickasaw, *7 June 2022. Photograph by Karl Fliris, New Hampton, IA.*

Book Review: *Slow Birding, The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard*

Carl Nollen



Slow Birding, The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard by Joan E. Strassman. 2022. 352 pages. Penguin Publishing Group. ISBN 978-0593329924 $27.00 (Hardcover).

The author is not an ornithologist, but a teacher of animal behavior at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is an active birder, however, and with this book, encourages birders to observe the common birds around us, rather than race around trying to see as many species as possible. She says that birds are our closest connection to wildness. Focusing on birds close at home gives you time to watch their behavior. Sit and watch - this is how the natural history of a species becomes known. The slowest birders of all are professional ornithologists who have spent their lives discovering the lives of individual birds. Each bird has a story to be told.

Sixteen species are covered, each in its own chapter. Five other chapters feature a place.

Some interesting questions are raised. Why does the House Wren migrate, but not the Carolina Wren? How are oak trees spread by Blue Jays? Despite it being common and widespread, the Blue Jay is not a state bird anywhere; does its noisy and bossy behavior limit its popularity?

Why do many flickers limit their diet to ants?

Most female songbirds do not sing, but female Northern Cardinals do. Why? The female Cardinal vocalizes on the nest to let her mate know when to come and when not to, to limit predators knowing the nest location. The song repertoires of urban and rural cardinals differ. Their nest choices between native versus nonnative bushes are being explored.

Cedar Waxwings are true frugivores which requires a special physiology. Did you know that Cedar Waxwings reject cowbird eggs in their nests, whereas most other birds do not recognize a foreign species and will raise them with their own young? DNA testing allows us to learn that monogamy is not as common as we thought in many species. Many other questions and results of scientific explorations are explored.

The many details of behavior in these chapters can be somewhat tedious to the amateur birder, but she has brought forward the results of the many obscure professional papers listed in the footnotes.

Each chapter is ended with suggestions for slow birding. For the starling,

for example, she gives eight ideas, including finding a murmuration in the fall or winter. These are the fantastic and confounding sky ballets performed by thousands of starlings in a flock.

When someone asks the author what new or exciting birds she has seen on her morning walks, she answers with the commonest birds she has observed. She wants to coax birders who run from one bird to the next to slow down and watch the birds they treasure.

I especially liked her description of Dark-eyed Juncos: "Their white bellies look snow-brushed, their gray backs a warm shawl for the coldest nights. They twitter and hide, flashing their white outer tail feathers as they scurry into a pine tree or under the dead grasses."

May we now better appreciate the birds we value so much.

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Little Blue Heron, Big Creek State Park, Polk*, 20 July 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

IOU Financial Reports

IOU

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1360 - TD Ameritrade	50,000
1450 Money Market - Comm 1st CU	65,114
1550 Savings - Comm 1st CU	5
1650 Checking - Comm 1st CU	12,963
PayPal	418
Total Bank Accounts	**$128,499**
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	50
Total Other Current Assets	**$50**
Total Current Assets	**$128,549**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$128,549**
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
3220 Projects	150
3300 Memorial Fund	57,066
General Operating Fund	62,941
Opening Bal Equity	80
Net Income	8,313
Total Equity	**$128,549**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$128,549**

IOU

Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL
ncome	
4000 Dues	**12,275**
5000 Donations	**12,084**
5200 Meeting Income	**5,563**
5300 Merchandise Sales	55
5900 Interest Income	450
Sales	
2020 Breeding Bird Atlas	554
Total Sales	**554**
Total Income	**$30,980**
GROSS PROFIT	**$30,980**
Expenses	
6100 Publications	
6110 Publications - IA Bird Life	12,446
6120 Publications - Internet Svc	277
6150 Publications - Software, Photo, Video Sites	377
Total 6100 Publications	**13,099**
6200 Meeting Expenses	**5,153**
6600 Insurance-Liability	631
6700 Committees	
6708 Committees - Conserv/Proj	2,997
Total 6700 Committees	**2,997**
6800 Officers	
6842 Officers - President	80
6847 Officers - Treasurer	88
Total 6800 Officers	**168**
6900 Bank & Pay Pal Exp.	619
Total Expenses	**$22,668**
NET OPERATING INCOME	**$8,313**
NET INCOME	**$8,313**

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The spring 1973 *Iowa Bird Life* was a fairly thin 20-page issue. The lead article by editor Peter Petersen summarized some recent changes in bird names. These included Shoveler, Upland Plover, Catbird, and Yellowthroat becoming Northern Shoveler, Upland Sandpiper, Gray Catbird, and Common Yellowthroat. Others involved lumping such as the two orioles and two juncos becoming Northern Oriole (currently split back to two species) and Dark-eyed Junco. Those were some of the first of what has become a continuing series of name changes.

Birding areas in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, and nearby counties were described, with a map, in an article by Morten Konig. The 11 areas include some that are still visited by birders including George Wythe State Park, Union Grove Park, Big Marsh, Sweet Marsh, and Backbone State Park.

The I.O.U.'s fifty-first annual meeting was held 12-13 May near Des Moines. A total of 131 people registered for the meeting. Saturday talks by Sylvan Runkel, Carl Kurtz, Dirk Dirksen, Richard Crawford, Jim Rod, and Larry Stone covered a variety of topics including marshes, penguins, birds of New Zealand, and nesting owls. A special award along with a lovely American Goldfinch print was given to Gladys Black. The banquet talk on "The Birds of Music: the Music of Birds." was presented by Joe and Dorothy Brown. The list of 152 species found on Sunday's field trips included 11 waterfowl, 15 shorebirds, and 20 warblers and most of the other species expected in Iowa in mid-May. Three others were found on Saturday. Notably, no Canada Geese, Wild Turkeys, or Bald Eagles were found! I suspect that no spring meeting in the last 25 years can make that claim.

The spring field reports mentioned most of the expected species but other than a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Bettendorf and Evening Grosbeaks being widely reported, no unusual species were reported. Among the short notes were reports of Red Crossbills in Plymouth County in August 1972 and 14 Cattle Egrets near Iowa City. A note by Gladys Black summarized the historic 1972–March 1973 invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers into Iowa.

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Sandhill Crane, Xavier Ave / Brenton Slough, Dallas*, 1 June 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly)**:**

Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Will Bates, 215 NE 19th Ct, Ankeny, IA 50021 (w_rbates@icloud.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at IBL@iowabirds.org. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at lgdau9@gmail.com. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for the fall season, 1 April for the winter season, 1 July for the spring season, 1 October for the summer season.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and email changes to Membership Coordinator Will Bates, 215 NE 19th Ct, Ankeny, IA 50021 (w_rbates@icloud.com)

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Tricolored Heron, Deere Dike, *Dubuque*, 3 June 2022. Photograph by Tony Moline, Dubuque, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Gray Catbird, Cortwright Wildlife Area, *Buchanan*, 30 July 2022. Photograph by Connor Langan, Grundy Center, IA.

LAYOUT: Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.
PRINTER: Carter Printing Company, Des Moines, IA.

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